

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: EUR DEVELOPMENTS, OCTOBER 20

FOR SONNENFELDT ONLY FROM HARTMAN
OTTAWA FOR VINE EYES ONLY

1. CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES RELEASE THREE US SOLDIERS.
LATE ON OCTOBER 17 THREE US SOLDIERS ON PATROL ALONG THE
FRG-CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER GOT LOST, APPARENTLY STRAYED
INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND WERE CAPTURED BY CZECH FRONTIER
GUARDS. ON OCTOBER 18 THE CZECHS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY
WERE QUESTIONING THE THREE. FRG BORDER AUTHORITIES IN
LOW-KEY FASHION REQUESTED THEIR RELEASE, AND THE CZECHS
COMPLIED EVENING OCTOBER 19. ACCORDING TO EUROC, THE
CZECHS PHOTOGRAPHED THE SOLDIERS, ROUTINELY INTERROGATED
THEM, AND RELEASED THEM WITH THEIR WEAPONS. THE
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CZECHOSLOVAK MFA MADE A MILD ORAL REPRESENTATION TO OUR

CHARGE IN PRAGUE OCTOBER 20, NOTING THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES HAD SOUGHT TO TREAT THE INCIDENT IN A SPIRIT OF PROMOTING COOPERATION.

2. STEEL COUNTERVAILING CHARGES REJECTED. TREASURY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MACDONALD ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 20 THAT TREASURY HAS DECIDED NOT TO INITIATE AN INVESTIGATION

INTO THE ALLEGED SUBSIDIZATION OF STEEL EXPORTS BY SEVEN EC MEMBERS. MACDONALD ADDED THAT TREASURY HAS CONSISTENTLY HELD THAT REBATES OR REMISSIONS OF THE VALUE ADDED TAX ARE NOT BOUNTIES OR GRANTS WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE US COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAW. IN 1974, IMPORTS OF STEEL FROM THESE COUNTRIES AMOUNTED TO APPROXIMATELY \$2 BILLION; DISMISSAL OF THE COMPLAINT IS AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD CALMING EC FEARS OVER US "PROTECTIONISM."

3. ICELAND AND FRG AGREE TO FISHERIES TALKS. THE FRG HAS AGREED TO SEND A MISSION TO REYKJAVIK OCTOBER 27-29 TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM ICELAND'S RECENT EXTENSION OF ITS FISHERIES JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES. THE WAY WAS PAVED FOR THESE TALKS BY THE FRG'S CONCESSION IN ENDING ITS BOYCOTT ON LANDING OF ICELANDIC FISH IN GERMANY. THE GERMANS HAVE ALSO REPORTEDLY WITHDRAWN THEIR TRAWLERS BEYOND THE 200 MILE LIMIT. NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BRITISH (WHOSE SPECIAL FISHING ARRANGEMENTS WILL EXPIRE NOVEMBER 15) ARE ALSO SCHEDULED BEGIN OCTOBER 23.

4. US-GDR RELATIONS. THE GDR LEADERSHIP APPEARS TO BE USING THE HELSINKI DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY AS A STARTING POINT FOR PROPOSING FURTHER HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF US-GDR BILATERAL RELATIONS. AMBASSADOR COOPER WAS TOLD BY THE HEAD OF THE EAST GERMAN FOREIGN OFFICE'S AMERICA DESK THAT POLITBURO MEMBER HERMAN AXEN HAD GOTTEN THE IMPRESSION FROM HIS TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY IN HELSINKI THAT HE WOULD BE "WELCOME IN THE US TO CONTINUE SUCH DISCUSSIONS." A SIMILAR LINE WAS PRESENTED TO DAVID CONFIDENTIAL

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ANDERSON OF EUR/CE LAST WEEK BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR MONTAG OF THE GDR EMBASSY HERE. THE LATTER TOLD ANDERSON THE GDR LEADERSHIP HAD BEEN EXAMINING HOW THE RESULTS OF THE US-GDR CONVERSATIONS IN HELSINKI COULD BE USED TO FURTHER BILATERAL RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO MONTAG, GDR AMBASSADOR SIEBER WHEN HE SEES THE SECRETARY WILL PRESENT PROPOSALS FROM THE LEADERSHIP ON HOW THIS MIGHT BE DONE. HE DID NOT ELABORATE, BUT COOPER'S TALK

IN BERLIN SUGGESTS THE GDR MAY HAVE SOME SORT OF HIGH LEVEL VISIT IN MIND. EARLIER THIS YEAR, AXEN PUT OUT FEELERS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS VISITING CHICAGO IN JUNE FOR THE CONVENTION OF THE CPUSA. AT THAT TIME, WE MADE CLEAR THAT WE WOULD NOT WAIVE VISA INELIGIBILITY FOR SUCH A VISIT.

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5. PORTUGUESE AIRLIFT. PORTUGUESE REFUGEE OPERATIONS OFFICER IN LISBON HAS ASKED US TO DOUBLE AIRLIFT "SOONEST" BECAUSE REFUGEES AVAILABLE FOR EVACUATION HAVE JUMPED TO 3000 PER DAY, UP FROM LAST WEEK'S 1400 PER DAY. AT SAME TIME, PORTUGUESE DIRECT EVACUATION CAPACITY IS DOWN SLIGHTLY BECAUSE THEY ARE EVACUATING CAPE VERDIANS FROM ANGOLA TO THE CAPE VERDES, AND ARE RECONFIGURING A PORTUGUESE BOEING 707 FOR FREIGHT IN ORDER TO CARRY EVACUEES' EXCESS BAGGAGE. WE ARE AWAITING CONFIRMATION FROM LUANDA THAT HIGHER DAILY EVACUATION RATE CAN BE SUSTAINED BEFORE WE DOUBLE. EMBASSY LISBON HAS BEEN INFORMED. (WE HAD NOT YET IMPLEMENTED SECRETARY'S DECISION INCREASE AIRLIFT BECAUSE LEVEL OF EVACUEES FROM ANGOLA HAD TEMPORARILY BEEN LOWER THAN AIRLIFT CAPACITY.) INGERSOLL

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